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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 7, 1952

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS AND THE DIRECTOR, PSB

Subject: Department of State Recommendations on  
Agenda Item No. 5(a) -- Progress Report  
on Escapee Phase A Program.

1. The Department of State approves the Progress Report on Escapee Program (Phase A) PSB D-18a/2. However, the Department of State wishes to report that since the Status Report was prepared in early July, two significant program developments have taken place, reference to which should properly be included in the subject report. These developments are as follows:

(A) Increase in Resettlement Figures

Since the submission of materials for the Report, Escapee Resettlement figures have increased as follows:

Number already resettled or in transit	119
Total expected by end of August	600

(B) Information Coverage

The arrival of the PICME ship, General Taylor in New York on August 16 will afford the first substantial opportunity for utilization of newsworthy accomplishments of the Escapee Program through overseas and domestic information media. The Taylor will carry 44 escapees being resettled with the assistance of the Program. The group will include the Ollareks, a family of 5 Czechs who fled in an amphibious jeep under dramatic circumstances across the Morava River into Austria, and Ivan Pluhar, a Czech student who escaped by digging a tunnel from the prison camp near the uranium mines where he had been sentenced for anti-communist activity. Pluhar has been accepted for admission to the Yale Law School. The arrival will be given full coverage by IIA media, including live interviews, and will be highlighted in overseas dissemination. A domestic press release will also be issued.

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2. The Department

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2. The Department recommends that Recommendation No. 2 of the covering memorandum from Dr. Allen dated July 31 be amended to read as follows:

"That the Department of State be requested to review its current foreign information plans and activities in support of the Escapee Phase A Program, and to initiate any further actions indicated by such review, including necessary interdepartmental coordination with constituent agencies through established channels."

3. The general delegation of authority in the assignment of action responsibility for Phase A—Escapee Program—is understood by the Department of State to include action responsibility on the initiation of appropriate information support policies and programs to assure the objectives of the program.

4. The Department has currently in process/<sup>of</sup> development a comprehensive statement on foreign information support policies and programs and therefore requests that time be permitted to develop this fully including necessary interdepartmental coordination through established liaison channels with interested agencies.

5. Pending development of such policies and programs, as mentioned above, it is considered desirable to retain action responsibility within the Department with the prospect that at the appropriate stage of development, the POC may be called upon to assume coordinating responsibilities in these matters.

David K. E. Bruce  
Acting Secretary

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